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Message Text

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72
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 OES-05

HEW-06 AID-05 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /130 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9305

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 630

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP UNPOC
SUBJECT: UN POPULATION COMMISSION - SECOND REPORTING MESSAGE

1. FEBRUARY 24 SESSION, LEON TABAH, DIRECTOR OF THE UN POPULATION DIVISION OPENED ON PROGRAM OF WORK, DISCUSSING THE TWO-YEAR (1976-1977) AND MEDIUM-TERM WORK PLAN (1976-1979), STATING FOLLOWING POINTS ON FUTURE WORK OF SECRETARIAT. (A) IN VIEW VAST AMOUNT OF WORK FACING SECRETARIAT, PRIORITIES MUST BE DECIDED UPON; (B) SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED FOR PERFORMANCE ITS WORK; (C) SECRETARIAT MUST BECOME BETTER AWARE OF RELATED ACTIVITIES, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE UN SYSTEM AND BE BETTER ABLE TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE ASSISTANCE TO UNFPA; (D) WORK SHOULD BE INCREASINGLY INTERDISCIPLINARY; (E) SECRETARIAT SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WORK DONE BY UNIVERSITIES, IUSSP, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, ETC.; (F) ACC SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD PLAY LARGER ROLE IN COORDINATION; (G) POPULATION DIVISION SHOULD DEAL WITH "APPLIED RESEARCH" NOT BASIC THEORETICAL RESEARCH.

2. COUNTRY COMMENTS ON WORK PROGRAM WERE WIDE-RANGING, OFTEN GENERAL IN NATURE, SOMETIMES SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. TUNISIA STRESSED NEED TO STIMULATE AND MONITOR NATIONAL TRENDS AND POLICIES AS FOLLOW-UP TO
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WPC AND WPPA. SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INDIA, TUNISIA, USSR,

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

ECUADOR, STRESSED NEED FOR MORE WORK ON URBANIZATION AND INTERNAL MIGRATION. GENERAL OBSERVATION OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES (BRAZIL, DENMARK, UK), AND EVEN SECRETARIAT, WAS THAT WORK PROGRAM PRESENTED IN E/CN,9/317 AND CRP #3 (MANPOWER BUDGET) WAS OVERLY AMBITIOUS AND NEEDED SETTING OF PRIORITIES. SEVERAL COUNTRIES (GHANA, INDIA, DENMARK, UKRAINE, AND OTHERS) STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF STUDIES ON INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION CHANGE. ECUADOR, UKRAINE, AND OTHERS FELT THAT MANPOWER BUDGET DID NOT PLACE ENOUGH RESOURCES INTO STUDY OF EFFECT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE ON POPULATION.

3. UK NOTED THAT DOCUMENT E/CN.9/317 WAS MORE A STRATEGY OF RESEARCH THAN SPECIFIC WORK PROGRAM. IN DISCUSSION, TABAH ADMITTED THAT E/CN.9/317 AND CRP #3 WERE PREPARED LARGELY BEFORE BUCHAREST AND NEEDED ADJUSTMENTS. UK ALSO STRESSED NEED TO RELATE TASKS TO BE DONE MORE CLEARLY TO TARGET DATES 1977 AND 1979 MENTIONED WPPA AS REVIEW AND APPRAISAL DATES. UK, US, NETHERLANDS, AND SWEDEN NOTED NEED TO STRESS MONITORING FUNCTIONS IN WORK PROGRAM OF SECRETARIAT AND REQUESTED REARRANGEMENT WORK PROGRAM TO REFLECT IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING.

4. UK, TUNISIA EMPHASIZED INQUIRIES TO GOVERNMENTS AS PRIORITY ACTIVITY WITHIN MONITORING FUNCTION.

5. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (COSTA RICA, US) NOTED NEED TO COORDINATE WORK OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITIES.

6. DISCUSSION CONTINUED FEBRUARY 25 WITH CHAIRMAN CONCEPCION CALLING FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF PROJECTS LISTED IN E/CN.9/317 AND CRP #3, WITH EMPHASIS ON DETERMINATION OF WHAT PROJECTS ARE MOST NEEDED FOR FOLLOW-UP TO WPPA.

7. POPULATION PROJECTIONS WERE ACCEPTED BY ALL COUNTRIES AS ESSENTIAL FOR MONITORING FUNCTION. HOWEVER, SOME COUNTRIES (THAILAND, INDIA, NIGER) CALLED FOR MORE
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COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES MAKING PROJECTIONS TO AVOID CONFUSION. US STRESSED NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN PROJECTION WORK SO THAT RAPID REVISIONS CAN BE MADE WHEN NEW DATA BECAME AVAILABLE. UK NOTED NEED TO HAVE NEW SET OF PROJECTIONS AVAILABLE FOR 1979 REVIEW AND APPRAISAL. ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS WERE LIKEWISE ACCEPTED AS ESSENTIAL FOR MONITORING FUNCTION. PORTUGAL ASKED MORE ATTENTION TO INTER-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

NATIONAL MIGRATION. SECONDED BY TUNISIA, MOROCCO,
INDONESIA, BRAZIL, ROMANIA, ECUADOR. GHANA ASKED
SETTING COMPLETION DATES FOR PROJECTS APPROPRIATE
FOR UTILIZATION OF PROJECT RESULTS IN
MONITORING AND REVIEW. UK AND US DELEGATIONS CALLED ON
POPULATION DIVISION TO TAKE WORK OF OTHER UN UNITS INTO
ACCOUNT AND REQUESTED INFORMATION OR INPUTS OF THESE
UNITS TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF WORK PROGRAM.

8. AS NOTED EARLIER, UKRAINE, USSR, ECUADOR AND A FEW
OTHERS URGED POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INTERRELATIONSHIPS TO BE MOST VITAL PROJECTS FOR SECRETARIAT.
QUESTION OF ROLE OF POPULATION DIV. AND UNITAR IN RESEARCH ON
INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF POPULATION, PRESSURES, AND ENVIRONMENT
RAISED BY SWEDEN. TABAH INDICATED POPULATION DIVISION AND UNITAR
WERE IN CONTACT REFERENCE THIS QUESTION AND ASSURED COMMISSION
THAT DUPLICATION WOULD BE AVOIDED.

9. SECTION ON POLICY WAS CONSIDERED INADEQUATE BY UK,
US, AND OTHERS IN LIGHT OF WPC AND WPPA AND REQUESTED
REDISTRIBUTION RESOURCES TO PLACE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES
ON MONITORING FUNCTION.

10. FERTILITY AND FAMILY PLANNING SECTION PROJECTS
WERE GENERALLY ACCEPTED. SOME CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED
OVER LACK OF RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO THESE PROJECTS.

11. DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL, INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS,
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES VERY GENERAL
WITH LITTLE ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS. INDIA
QUESTIONED THE SMALLNESS OF UN CONTRIBUTION TO BOMBAY
DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING CENTER (IIPS) COMPARED TO OTHER
CENTERS, BUT SECRETARIAT POINTED OUT IIPS IS AN INDIAN
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NOT A UN CENTER.

12. DISCUSSION ON PUBLICATION OF POPULATION BULLETIN
FOCUSED ON DESIRABILITY OF PUBLICATION IN ALL OFFICIAL
LANGUAGES AND SECRETARIAT INDICATED IT WOULD EXPLORE
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH PUBLICATION. THE
SECRETARIAT LATER PRESENTED COST ESTIMATE FOR TWO ISSUES
PER YEAR, ARTICLES TO BE IN THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH THEY
WERE PREPARED, WITH SUMMARIES IN OTHER LANGUAGES.
SEVERAL DELEGATES ASKED FOR ISSUES IN ALL LANGUAGES--
THE ADDITIONAL COST WOULD BE $115,000 FOR THE BIENNIUM.

13. FINANCIAL RESOURCES: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF UNFPA
(GILLE) INDICATED THAT $7.4 MILLION WAS APPROVED FOR
POPULATION WORK AT UN HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL BODIES

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

FOR 1975 AND THEY EXPECTED THAT ONLY $6.7 MILLION WILL
BE SPENT. GILLE NOTED CONCERN OVER DEPENDENCE OF
SECRETARIAT ON UNFPA FOR FUNDS FOR MONITORING, REVIEW,
AND APPRAISAL OF WPPA AND URGED REGULAR BUDGET
FUNDS BE USED FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00630 02 OF 02 010108Z

72
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 630

14. STRENGTHENING OF SECRETARIAT: THIS ITEM ON AGENDA
WAS INTRODUCED BY TABAH WITH STATEMENT THAT EXPANDED
STAFF WOULD BE NEEDED TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS
TO PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY POPULATION COMMISSION, SUCH
AS MONITORING. BRAZIL NOTED THAT HE WAS UNDER STRICT
DIRECTIVES TO KEEP UN BUDGET FROM RISING SO HE COULD NOT
SUPPORT EXPANSION OF STAFF FROM REGULAR FUNDS. GHANA
SUGGESTED IN VIEW OF UN'S BUDGETARY PROBLEMS, ONE STRATEGY
MIGHT BE TO HAVE OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS DO SOME OF THE WORK
OUTLINED IN THE SECRETARIAT'S WORK PLAN AS A CONTRIBUTION
TO UN, I.E., AT NO COST. GHANA ALSO NOTED NEED FOR
COMMISSION TO CLEARLY INDICATE WHICH PROJECTS WERE CON-
SIDERED ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. US SUPPORTED COLLABORA-
TION WITH PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS DOUBTED VALUE
RELIANCE SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. SEVERAL NOTED INPUT
OF REGIONAL POPULATION UNITS WERE UNKNOWN FACTOR IN
EVALUATING NEED AND STRATEGY FOR STRENGTHENING
SECRETARIAT. US POINTED OUT STRENGTHENING DOES NOT
ALWAYS MEAN EXPANSION.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

15. INDIA AND NETHERLANDS (AND OTHERS) STRESSED NEED FOR
MORE COORDINATION AT INTERAGENCY LEVEL AND INTERREGIONAL,
REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

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16. UK CAUTIONED THAT DESPITE FINANCIAL BIND OF UN
SYSTEM IT WOULD BE TRAGEDY TO BE TOO TIMID IN PREPARING
WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY REQUESTS AFTER HAVING
STIMULATED SO MUCH INTEREST IN POPULATION ACTIVITIES
VIA WPY AND WPC. ECUADOR AND FRANCE AGREED WITH UK.
TUNISIA, GHANA, AND UK STRESSED NEED TO STRENGTHEN
REGIONAL COMMISSION ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THAT THEY MAKE
AN APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTION TO WORK PROGRAM.
DISCUSSION ENDED WITH PROPOSAL BY CHAIRMAN THAT COMMISSION
RECOMMEND ENDORSEMENT OF WORK PROGRAM WHICH WAS REGARDED BY MANY
DELEGATIONS AS PREMATURE AND DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING.
FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, SECRETARIAT PRESENTED A REVISED
WORK PROGRAM INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT REALLOCATION OF
RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE NEEDED WORK IN RELATION TO MONITORING,
REVIEW AND APPRAISAL.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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